



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES  
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**DATE:** June 19, 2002

**TO:** Retro Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Frank Romero (Chair), Retro Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** Minutes of April 9, 2002, retro advisory committee meeting

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:04 PM, by committee chair **Frank Romero**.

**Introductions** were made around the room. It was *moved, seconded and carried* to **approve** the meeting minutes of January 15, 2002, as published. Frank reviewed today's agenda.

- Committee member Roger Sims asked for a follow-up from Sandy Dziedzic regarding communication issues on claims. Frank will request she attend a future meeting to discuss her findings.

*Occupational Health Services Project* – **Diana Drylie** (Project Manager) presented information on a new project that is intended to expand occupational health care expertise and improve injured worker outcomes over the next several years. It is a partnership between the department and the Valley Medical Center of Renton & Auburn.. This pilot project is a community-based effort to improve occupational health services for injured workers. They will use occupational health leaders to increase the occupational health skills and knowledge of providers who treat injured workers. Free continuing education will be offered to providers as an incentive to participate, and they must also meet other requirements. If you have questions or would like additional information contact Diana Drylie (360-902-6807) or **Susan Campbell** (360-902-5053). Project website: <http://www.LNI.wa.gov/hsa/ohs/> (*see handout*)

*2002 Retro Symposium* – **Frank Romero** discussed plans for the retro symposium, which will take place on October 30, 2002, in conjunction with the Governor's Industrial Safety & Health Conference in Spokane. The topic will be occupational hearing loss.

*Rule Changes* – Frank discussed proposed changes to the WAC rules governing the retrospective rating program. The rules would be reformatted to make them easier to read, and to provide more examples and notes; the WISHA Core Rules were used as a model. Most of the rules that apply to individual participants were not changed. One of the ideas for groups was withholding the refund for a specific coverage period if the group had an assessment for another period due. Frank encouraged feedback from the retro community on the suggested changes.

*Utilization Review* – Dr Lee Glass provided an overview of the Utilization Review program, and the recently updated guidelines. Nikki D’Urso discussed the new contractor, Pro-West, and the transition from previous vendor. Pro-West will assume responsibility for all new reviews beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. A provider bulletin will be published on 4/18/02 detailing the changes.

*IME Best Practices* – Anita Austin presented information on the goals and intent of this project. They have collected numerous suggestions and ideas after extensive communication with stakeholders. The department is now in the process of determining the feasibility of implementing the various recommendations. Stakeholder communications will continue while this is being done.

Frank thanked all in attendance and adjourned the meeting at 3:36 PM.